

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, April 14, 2016 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gunter as Chair called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (4:55 p.m.), Trustee Guzzo, Trustee Liddle, Trustee Nero (4:48 p.m.), Mayor Gunter, Village Clerk Szymiski, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Mulhearn

Also present:

Deputy Fire Chief Riley, EMS Director Dralle, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Finance Director Parker, IT Director Liljeberg, Communications Director McIntyre, Public Works Director Ramsey (4:38 p.m.), Community Development Director Ziegler (4:39 p.m.), Deputy Clerk Richards, Westmont Chamber President Forssberg (4:45 p.m.), Police and Fire Commissioners Kovanda, Musial and Hrnecirik, FPB Inspector Bresnahan, Lt. Kevin O'Hare, Frank Trout, Lt. Kevin O'Hare Family and Friends, Fire Department Members, Mr. Bill Baum (240 & 300 W. Quincy Ave.) and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2, 2016 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Liddle made a motion, seconded by Trustee Addington to approve the March 2, 2016 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Alarm and Wireless Update

Chief Weiss provided an update on fire alarm system installations and wireless connections.

- He advised there were only a few occupancies with non compliant fire alarm systems out of 800 remaining.
- Three of the non-compliant occupancies are currently vacant and will be required to update prior to occupancy.
- He stated two additional occupancies have submitted plans and are awaiting installation.
- There is only one occupancy which has not submitted plans to date.
- Mayor Gunter questioned how many occupancies have not complied with the wireless connection requirement. Chief Weiss advised approximately 2-3 occupancies have not complied to date.

Mr. Bill Baum, Property Owner, was present to discuss property he owns at 240 and 300 W. Quincy.

- He indicated in 2009 the Village required him to install compliant fire alarm systems in both buildings. At that time he went above and beyond what he felt was required and also installed a wireless system through AES which was allowed at the time.
- Although it is not directly monitored by Westmont, he feels his system is compliant as there is currently wireless monitoring through AES in both buildings.
- Mr. Baum requested a waiver or to be grandfathered in from the direct wireless connection requirement.
- Chief Weiss advised in 2012 Mr. Baum was notified of the wireless connection ordinance change. Staff has been working with Mr. Baum since that time to achieve full code compliance. He further said staff has allowed owners to complete current contracts prior to switching to Norcomm.
- Chief Weiss further advised Mr. Baum's buildings are the only non-compliant apartment buildings within the Village. Staff is to the point of issuing non-compliance citations.
- Village Manager May said the Village has not waived the wireless connection requirement for any occupancies to date.
- After further discussion, Mayor Gunter advised the consensus of the Committee was not to waive the wireless connection requirement for Mr. Baum.

Lieutenant Promotion Ceremony

Chief Weiss said Firefighter Kevin O'Hare was being promoted to Lieutenant.

- Trustee Nero swore Lt. O'Hare into his new rank.
- Chief Weiss said coffee and cake were being served following the ceremony.
- Lt. O'Hare thanked staff for the opportunity and support in his new rank.

Fire Fees Survey Results

Chief Weiss said staff was asked to investigate additional fire fees. Deputy Fire Chief Riley distributed information on billing service companies.

- The three companies who provide service are Fire Recovery, EMS Billing Services and Lifequest Billings.
- Fire Recovery Services made a presentation at a previous Public Safety Meeting.
- After review staff feels that Fire Recovery Services is the only company that can meet Westmont's needs.
- Lifequest is unable to connect to or extract data from Firehouse which would create additional staff time to prepare information for billing.
- Trustee Guzzo questioned the contract length.
 - D/C Riley was unsure but advised he would request additional information.
 - Chief Weiss advised a 2-3 year contract would be ideal.
- Trustee Barry expressed concern over the number of vendors available.
 - Mayor Gunter asked how many companies provided the billing service.
 - Chief Weiss advised the three companies surveyed were the only three that provide the billing services needed.
- Trustee Barker said he appreciated the Fire Department trying to generate additional revenue to offset other costs.
- After further discussion the Public Safety Committee consensus was to move forward to the Village Board with Fire Recovery Services for approval.

DG-VOC Dispatch Agreement and Conditions

Chief Weiss advised staff is working with the Village of Downers Grove to improve dispatch services.

- A draft agreement has been written that includes action items, time lines and penalties.
- Staff will keep the Committee updated as further information becomes available.

North Fire District

Chief Weiss said the North Fire Protection District held a special town hall meeting on Monday, April 11th to discuss the special service area and to review the second mailing results.

- He said it was a good meeting with several good questions raised. The consensus was to move forward with the special service area formation process with DuPage County.
- Village Manager May indicated it would go through DuPage County as the area is unincorporated.

Vehicle Update - New Truck

Chief Weiss advised a lease agreement was executed and specs created for a new ladder truck. The current ladder truck 1839 will return from Global next week and be placed back in service.

Accreditation and ISO Update

Chief Weiss said the accreditation process documents have been submitted.

- The accreditation team will be doing the site visit from Sunday, June 19th through Wednesday, June 22.
- Staff is hoping to obtain its 4th certification. The process is completed every five years so this will be the 20th year the fire department has been accredited.
- He further stated ISO will be contacted in August for a re-review in September.

HQ Generator

Chief Weiss advised staff is obtaining quotes for the Headquarters Station generator. More information will be provided once quotes are received.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEA Asset Forfeiture Resumption Update

Chief Mulhearn said The Westmont Police Department has joined with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in a program where one Westmont Officer is assigned to a task force comprised of other local officers and DEA agents. He highlighted aspects of the program:

- There are training opportunities which the Task Force Officer (TFO) can bring back to the department.
- Inter-agency cooperation and opportunities to interdict drugs and currency as well as sharing in asset forfeitures when applicable.
- The DEA reimburses the Village for approximately \$18,000 a year for overtime performed by the TFO.
- The assigned TFO works out of an office in the Chicagoland area and does not work out of the WPD station. Westmont has offered additional personnel if needed for shorter periods of time (approx one month).
- Chief Mulhearn advised the asset forfeiture program was reinstated last month.

Chief Mulhearn said staff could not discuss the TFO operations as it was confidential. He indicated it is a very active and productive program.

Hiring of New Personnel - Update on Police and Fire Commission Activities

Chief Mulhearn said Police and Fire Commission members were present to provide an update on the hiring process. He proposes to have them attend every six months or so to keep members updated and informed on hiring activities.

Bob Kovanda, Police and Fire Commission President reviewed Police and Fire Commission activities during the fiscal year 2015/16 period. Activities included:

- Conducted 21 candidate interviews whose names appeared on the new police officer eligibility list that expired October 15, 2015.
- Evaluated 21 candidate interviews, rejected 4 candidates and sent 17 candidates for polygraph evaluations.
- Reviewed polygraph evaluations of the 17 candidates, rejected 7 and authorized 10 candidate background investigations to be conducted by the Westmont PD Detective Division.
- Reviewed 10 candidate background investigations, rejected 4 candidates, and offered the remaining 6 candidates a “conditional offer of employment” contingent upon the successful completion of a psychological evaluation and medical exam.
- Hired 4 of the 6 remaining candidates.
- Members are preparing to interview 6 candidates on April 23, 2016 to fill two vacancies.

He further advised in September, 2015 the Commissioners conducted a bi-annual written and physical ability tests at Westmont High School to re-populate the names on the police eligibility list as required by state statute. The list of names will be in effect for two years at which time the names on the list will expire. Test applications were received from 115 applicants and 83 candidates scored well enough to make it to the eligibility list. The list will be used for future consideration to become a Westmont Police Officer.

In conclusion he advised Police and Fire Commissioners conducted 21 regular and special meetings, attended classes and seminars as well as sending and receiving numerous phone calls, letters, emails pertaining to the hiring process.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Guzzo seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary